

TRANSPORTATION - AASHTO KONNECTION

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American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Special AASHTO Edition
to the
Konnection
Newsletter

Cabinet Employees Reap Awards at 2003 AASHTO Conference in Minneapolis

Secretary Codell, as president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), recognized several KYTC employees for their outstanding service to transportation at the AASHTO Conference in Minneapolis in September.

The President's Transportation Awards

Secretary Codell awarded individuals who have performed exemplary service during the year which could benefit transportation nationwide.

Environment Award



John L. Mettille, Chief Environmental Program Administrator

As the Chief Environmental Program Administrator, John Mettille has been instrumental in helping the Cabinet embrace their stewardship role in enhancing the environment in major transportation projects in Kentucky.

During his 25-year career with the Cabinet, Mettille has developed environmental leadership training for the employees and guided the development of community impact assessments which begin in planning and continue through project development. He was instrumental in creating Kentucky's first "Environmental Policy," which defines the Cabinet's environmental leadership and environmental stewardship expectations.

Highway Traffic Safety Award



511 Implementation Team

The value of a statewide traveler information system is only as good as the information provided. The members of the 511 Implementation Team first acquired new road condition database software and then partnered with the Kentucky State Police and the regional Traffic Management Centers to provide information to the database on crashes and emergency incidents, including information on construction, maintenance and weather conditions.

The new system was put to the test

Team Members: Leon Walden, Nancy Albright, Glenn Anderson, Wayne Bates, Larry Britton, John Crossfield, Chuck Knowles, Jan Naegle, and Joe Vick

The President's Transportation Awards (Continued)

with an early snow in December 2002 when it received over 50,000 calls, and then again with an ice storm in February 2003 when it successfully processed over 55,000 calls in a three-day period. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's 511 Implementation Team is a nationally recognized leader in the deployment of 511.

Public Transportation Award



Team Members: *Vickie Bourne, Gail Mayeux, Brian Beaven, Della Davis, Robin Croley, Jennifer Smith, Paula Cissell, Joe Sheilley, Kalem Juett, Lisa Adler, Janet Allen, Holly Scudder, Sue Perkins, Misty Rice, and Kristi Broyles*

Office of Transportation Delivery Team

Under Governor Patton's Empower Kentucky initiative, the Office of Transportation Delivery (OTD) was created within the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to integrate transportation for human services programs, welfare training services and vocational rehabilitation services. By placing what was a fragmented, costly transportation delivery process under the auspices of the Transportation Cabinet, the team created a cost effective, reliable, and safer Human Services Transportation Delivery (HSTD) program. Operated under a brokerage system, it provides transportation services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. The Office of Transportation Delivery was the first in the nation to consolidate transportation for these types of programs statewide.

The President's Special Award of Merit

Secretary Codell also presented the AASHTO President's Special Award of Merit to:



John L. Carr, P.E., Deputy State Highway Engineer, Office of Intermodal Programs

John Carr has been a leader in AASHTO throughout most of his 32-year career with the Cabinet. He has served on numerous committees, primarily in the planning, environment, and reauthorization disciplines and he has also served in the research and management areas, such as engineering recruitment and retention.

Carr has been instrumental in the development of the AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence, the AASHTO Environmental Stewardship Demo Program, and the revisions to the Standing Committee on Environment Orientation Manual. He has assisted in the planning of the AASHTO Transportation and Historic Preservation Conference and the annual spring meeting of the association in 2003. He has worked with the Standing Committee on Quality on their environmental stewardship benchmarking survey and with the Standing Committee on Planning on the establishment of the joint AASHTO SCOP/SCOE Air Quality Subcommittee. Carr currently serves as the chair of the Reauthorization Work Team for Expediting Program Delivery and has served as staff assistant to Secretary Codell during his leadership of the Standing Committee on Environment and the Reauthorization Steering Committee.

The President's Special Award of Merit (Continued)



Clifford C. Linkes, P.E., Deputy Secretary for Administration

Clifford Linkes has been active in the regional multi-state transportation agency organizations, including the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Mississippi Valley Conference of State Highway and Transportation Officials. His support of Secretary Codell during his term as AASHTO president this year has afforded the Secretary the flexibility to travel and promote the causes of AASHTO.

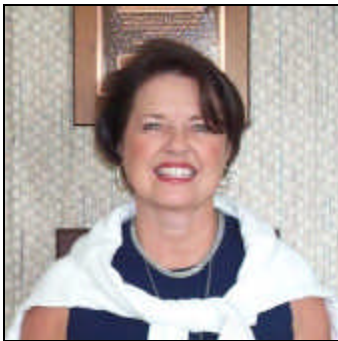
As Deputy Secretary for Administration for the Cabinet, Linkes is responsible for assisting in the activities and management of all areas of transportation including highways, public transportation, waterways, aeronautics, and motor vehicle regulation, and he is directly responsible for 11 divisions, departments and offices.



James M. (Mac) Yowell, P.E., State Highway Engineer

Mac Yowell has served as the State Highway Engineer for the Cabinet for the past 12 years. He has exhibited outstanding ability, integrity, service, ethical behavior, and significant achievement throughout his professional career.

He has been active in Long Term Pavement Performance Research through the Transportation Research Board and was recognized by the University of Kentucky with its Civil Engineering Career Achievement Award. Yowell has provided strong leadership to AASHTO, serving as a member of both the Standing Committee on Quality and the Standing Committee on Highways.



Cheryl Caldwell, Staff Assistant

Cheryl Caldwell has served in state government for 16 years, and as a staff assistant to the Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the past 12 years. Her expertise and organizational skills have enabled her to manage the already demanding work of her boss, Secretary Codell, with the additional responsibilities he has carried as the President of AASHTO.

Her exemplary efforts in scheduling, organizing, communications and coordination have been key to the success of the AASHTO Spring Meeting in 2003 and to the leadership activities of President Codell.

Secretary Codell on Three Emphasis Areas for AASHTO in 2003



The day Secretary Codell was handed the gavel to become President of AASHTO, he outlined his three emphasis areas for action for 2003: reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, heightened safety in all transportation modes, and environmental leadership in transportation.

THE REAUTHORIZATION JOURNEY

Over the past two years while Secretary Codell was AASHTO Vice President and President, recommendations for reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century were and still are among AASHTO's top legislative priorities.

What are AASHTO's Recommendations for Reauthorization?

- ✓ Grow the federal highway and transit program over the next six years—For highways from \$34 billion in FY 2004 to at least \$45 billion in FY 2009—For transit from \$7.5 billion in FY 2004 to at least \$11 billion in FY 2009.
- ✓ Maintain funding guarantees and firewalls and fix the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority (RABA).
- ✓ Advance environmental stewardship.
- ✓ Accelerate the project review process.
- ✓ Fund safety programs to reduce the human and economic impact of vehicle accidents.
- ✓ Enhance transportation security, large-scale disaster incident response and interagency communication.
- ✓ Provide congestion relief through increased highway and transit capacity, expanded use of intelligent transportation systems, and improvements in operational management of transportation systems.
- ✓ Provide adequate funding for transportation

research and technology transfer.

- ✓ Transfer the 2.5 cents per gallon ethanol fuel tax receipts from the general fund into the highway trust fund and replace the revenue forgone from the 5.3 cents ethanol fuel tax exemption.
- ✓ Reauthorize the aviation in-

"The most important message we must present to Congress at this time is the immediate need for enactment of a long-term bill with significant funding increases. Stopgap measures that simply extend the current program for short periods will only compound the financial crises of the states.

While some federal funding will continue to flow, long range planning based upon guaranteed future funding will come to a halt. Major transportation projects, now requiring as long as ten years from concept to completion, can expect significant delays that will serve to postpone many highway improvements well into the next decade.

Some would have us believe that these are the worst of times to enact new highway and transit legislation, as problems are more complex and opportunities less promising. It comes down to a matter of courage and leadership. Investments in transportation truly are investments in America, in jobs for today, and economic growth for tomorrow. The American public expects us in the states and those in Congress to come together to deliver what America needs—transportation equal to the challenges at hand."

—Codell's remarks at the 2003 Annual AASHTO Meeting in Minneapolis

vestment and reform act (AIR-21), to fund airports and air traffic control with an emphasis on additional resources to meet increased security requirements.

- ✓ Enact legislation assuring that the nation's travelers will have efficient and dependable intercity passenger rail service.
- ✓ Improve movement of freight by all modes through increased funding for intermodal connectors, further development of freight corridors and the creation of freight expertise at the state and local levels.

THE SAFETY JOURNEY

When it comes to highway safety, AASHTO focused on the areas of policy, engineering, and public education. Under Codell's leadership AASHTO:

- Adopted a new safety goal of 1.0 fatalities per one hundred million miles;
- Collaborated with other safety organizations in safety recommendations for reauthorization of the federal highway and transit program;
- Convened national groups for a leadership forum; and
- Promoted safety through

campaigns such as National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week.



In 1997, AASHTO joined with safety advocates, federal officials, industry and stakeholders to create a national Strategic Highway Safety plan to reduce the annual number of deaths on the nation's highways. The plan identified critical strategies in 22 key emphasis areas which could save lives and reduce accidents. A research effort sprang from the Strategic Highway Safety plan and the first products of that research effort were released earlier this year. States are now being asked to evaluate

the research recommendations for use in state highway safety plans and put these plans into action.

To share the results of on-going research, an AASHTO web site was created where state highway professionals and the public can find answers to their questions about highway safety. The site www.safety.transportation.org, which is now maintained as part of the AASHTO transportation portal, offers details of the Strategic Highway Safety plan, its six main elements, and their implementation guides. It also offers timely information about best practices, the latest highway safety news and links to other safety resources.

Improving highway safety through engineering has been the goal of several technical publications issued by AASHTO over the last few years. AASHTO is preparing a new guide intended to increase pedestrian safety which is scheduled to be published for Spring 2004. This upcoming Guide for the Planning, Design, and

"There can be only one agenda—safety, saving lives, and eliminating the accidents that are happening on our highways."

—James C. Codell, III, AASHTO President

Operation of Pedestrian Facilities focuses on identifying effective measures for accommodating pedestrians within the public right-of-way. The guide primarily assists planners, roadway designers, and transportation engineers at the state and local level, those who make decisions on a daily basis that affect pedestrians.

AASHTO has joined with the Federal Highway Administration and the American Traffic Safety Services Association for the past four years to publicize the need for extra care in work zones through national and state events commemorating National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is observed early in April each year. At the 2003 national event, Codell stressed the fact that highway workers are not the only ones losing their lives in work-zone crashes. Because excess speed and inattentive driving play such a role in work-zone wrecks, he pointed out, it is important for drivers to understand that it is their own lives—or those of their

loved ones or friends—that they are likely to save by observing speed limits and other restrictions in work zones.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Delivering transportation projects better and faster requires a double commitment—to environmental stewardship and to expedited project review. State transportation agencies are demonstrating environmental leadership—leaving the environment in better condition, exceeding minimum regulatory requirements for mitigation, and fulfilling responsibilities as trustees of the environment.

As AASHTO President, Codell has seen many accomplishments in the area of environmental leadership. A

new report “Taking the Highway Road” was recently released by AASHTO which documents the environmental and social benefits of America’s highway programs. On October 1, AASHTO launched the new environmental web-



based clearing house, a one-stop source of information for transportation professionals. And a team of environmental experts has been recruited to assist states with immediate project issues and long-term program needs as part of AASHTO’s Technical Assistance Program.

“Our journey through change has focused upon doing more when we build roads. We want to plan, design, construct, and maintain roads that enhance the human and natural communities.

The public is demanding projects that fit, look good, have environmental sensitivity to the human and natural communities, and have balance. We are trying to deliver projects in the proper context in addition to being on time and within budget. Our environmental policy will lead to improved project delivery times and projects that fit, look good, have balance, and have sensitivity to the human and natural environments. The elements of stewardship, partnership, leadership, practice, and commitments are keys to delivering such projects.”

— AASHTO President James C. Codell, III